

one agrees with him that "no legal action should ever be based upon results of deception tests alone" (p. 242), and that "the records are not court evidence" (p. 389. In its presentation of an additional instrument in the armamentarium of the criminologist the volume indicates that another lie-detection method is still a-borning.

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## Book Notes

THE GOVERNMENT IN LABOR DISPUTES. By Edwin E. Witte. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co. 1932. pp. xi, 352. \$4.

THIS is the completest summary in print, by the ripest scholar in the field, of the manifold ways in which our society, through law, mismanages relations between workmen and employers. No such immoderate-looking statement as mine is to be found in it. Its objectivity is sedulous. Its facts, to be packed into so few pages, had to be dessicated. They are eloquent notwithstanding. With their eloquence Dr. Witte refrains from competing even when, at the end, "with some hesitation," he presents his own well-weighed sober views.

Since in a review, so brief, one cannot hope to adequately discuss a book, so extensive, it may be proper to conclude with the thought that even people jaded with much "labor" reading are likely to find Dr. Witte's sobriety exciting.

THE COMMERCIAL CODE OF JAPAN. The Codes Translation Committee, The League of Nations Association of Japan. Two volumes. Tokyo: 1932. pp. xliii, 427; iv, 655.

FOLLOWING the organization by the League of Nations of an International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, a supporting national committee was organized which, beginning with this English Translation of the Commercial Code, undertook the translation of Japanese Codes into European languages. The introduction traces the rise of commerce and commercial law in Japan and the successive borrowings from French and German codes as the rapid industrialization of Japan made it desirable to import a ready made system of law suitable to the new economy. It is hinted that since actual business usages today are most in accord with those of Japan's principal customers, England and the United States, there is a resultant conflict between such usages and the forms of a predominately German Code.

No mere translation, the book contributes a form of annotation unique for a work on civil law. Instead of the traditional theoretical comment, we find abstracts of decisions in a form familiar to the Anglo-American lawyer. It is said that decisions are generally followed although without "the binding force of precedent." Then, too, there is a striking similarity between the results reached in the specific illustrative cases and what one would expect a common law court to decide. In addition to the elaborate definitions of traders and commercial transactions within the scope of the Code, additional sources of applicable law are listed to cover matters not provided for in the Code.

Though an English speaking lawyer cannot hope to solve his clients' problems of Japanese law solely by consulting the present volumes, the book creates the impression that one contemplating commercial dealings which will subject him to Japanese law need not fear that he is an Alice stepping through the looking glass.

INTERNATIONAL LAW IN NATIONAL COURTS. A study in the enforcement of International Law in German, Swiss, French and Belgian courts. By Ruth D. Masters. New York: Columbia University Press. 1932. pp. 245. \$3.75.

Too often handicapped by language barriers or the deficiencies of libraries, American students of international law will welcome Miss Master's study as a practical and valuable aid. Explicitly rejecting the philosophical treatment of her subject, Miss Masters examines the judicial policy of Germany, Switzerland, France and Belgium in regard to customary international law, treaties and such special problems as each country may present. She has wisely restricted her main investigation to case law and, by means of terse summaries of fact situations presented for judicial determination, has built up a fabric which gives a compact view of conditions and practices prevailing in each country. Her grouping of the cases has been enriched by pertinent reference to the legislative and executive documents relating to her problem. This is particularly true in the case of the chapter on Article 4 of the German Constitution of August 11, 1919. The very workable index makes the mass of case material equally available for quick reference and comparative study of special details and serves as a fitting climax for this efficient unit.

THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF JURISPRUDENCE. By George W. Keeton. London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. 1930. pp. xii, 324.

BELIEVING that jurisprudence has a threefold function, the author has adopted a tripartite arrangement. Part I deals with the nature, sources, evolution and enforcement of the law, special attention being paid to Austin, Maine, Holland, Salmond, Carter and Gray. Part II is devoted to some of the more important "fundamental juristic conceptions." Besides Hohfeld's scheme of jural opposites and correlatives, such conceptions as legal personality, status, events, acts, and bases of liability among others, are discussed. Part III is concerned with a classification and analysis of substantive law. Not only is Anglo-American jurisprudence discussed, but constant reference is made to the jurisprudence of the Continent and Ancient Rome and Greece. As the book is intended primarily for the use of students, the discussion is rudimentary, and without much attention to detail. The American reader will regret the author's failure to include any discussion of the so-called American school of modern realists, whose writings occupy such a substantial proportion of contemporary American legal literature.

AMERICAN PARTIES AND POLITICS. By Harold R. Bruce. Second Edition. New York: Henry Holt and Co. 1932. pp. vi, 589. \$3.75.

THIS volume, the last twelve chapters in particular, read in the light of the recent Presidential campaign and national elections, makes interesting if not freshly instructive reading. The campaign and election of 1932 were of necessity omitted but its figures and highlights, its issues and vindictives are recalled by such chapters as Campaign Methods, Elections, The Citizen and Politics. In view of the landslide vote of 1932, Mr. Bruce's references to the Republicanism of New England and the schism of the Solid South are entertaining; his prophecy as to the use of the radio as a campaign medium interestingly borne out; his description of "counting the ballot" reminiscent of the charges of fraud and spoliation of the McKee ballots in the New York Mayoralty election; and his section on "the machine and the judiciary" recollective of the bipartisan judiciary deals, the Hofstadter-Steuer defection, and Curry telephone call innuendo. Local parties and politics as well as national are considered. The Seabury investigation, under way less than a year at the time of this revision, is given little space, but the mechanism and leaders of Tammany are fully discussed.

As Mr. Bruce himself suggests in his apologia, the book is conventional in outline and content, since it was intended for an introductory course in American parties and politics. Notwithstanding that fact, a reader fully cognizant of American political history may find in this work an interesting means of renewing his acquaintance with the history of party organizations and their election methods.